

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims to be examined are claims 1-26 found on the amended sheets attached to the International Preliminary Examination Report and filed on May 7, 2004.

Please cancel claims 3-5, 7, 14, 17, 21-22 and 24-26 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (original) An escape mask that enables one to breathe filtered air in the presence of contaminated air containing smoke, unidentified particles, chemical and/or biological agents or combinations of these, the mask comprising,

A. a hood foldable to pocket size that when unfolded can cover the entire head, comprising:

1. a bag made of transparent plastic film material impermeable to gases,

2. a filter assembly capable of filtering contaminated air or particles,

3. an exhalation valve forming part of the mask, and

B. separate sealing means, not attached to the bag, to seal the hood around the neck, enabling adjusting the bag over the head to reduce the free space inside the hood.

2. (original) A mask as in claim 1, wherein the transparent plastic film material is made of a laminate of more than one plastic material.

Claims 3-5 (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A mask in ~~claims~~ claim 1 to 5, wherein the hood is transparent only on the part that will be worn opposite the eyes, mouth and nose.

Claim 7 (canceled).

8. (currently amended) A mask as in claim 7 1, wherein the filter assembly is heat sealed onto the bag.

9. (original) A mask as in claim 1, wherein the filter assembly is a multilayered filter assembly containing at least one filter layer containing an antiseptic effective against microorganisms and at least one filter layer containing active charcoal.

10. (original) A mask as in claim 9, wherein the filter assembly comprises an activated charcoal filter layer sandwiched between two filter layers containing an antiseptic that destroys microorganisms.

11. (currently amended) A mask as in ~~claims~~ claim 9 and ~~10~~, wherein the antiseptic material is selected from the group consisting of clorhexidine salt and cetylpyridinium chloride.

12. (currently amended) A mask as in ~~claims~~ claim 1 to ~~11~~, wherein the filter is in the area ~~where~~ of the nose and mouth of someone wearing the mask.

13. (currently amended) A mask as in ~~claims~~ claim 9 to ~~11~~, wherein the antiseptic filter layers are able to filter out particles greater than 2 microns.

Claim 14 (canceled).

15. (currently amended) A mask as in ~~claims~~ claim 1 to ~~14~~, wherein the exhalation valve is embedded in the filter assembly.

16. (currently amended) A mask as in ~~claims~~ claim 1 to ~~15~~, wherein the exhalation valve is in the area opposite the lips of someone wearing the mask.

Claim 17 (canceled).

18. (currently amended) A mask as in ~~claims~~ claim 1 to ~~17~~, wherein the separate sealing means is an elastic band.

19. (currently amended) A mask as in ~~claims~~ claim 1 to ~~17~~, wherein the separate sealing means are two elastic bands.

20. (currently amended) A mask as in ~~claims~~ claim 18 and ~~19~~, wherein the band is of a size and strength to achieve a

good seal and still avoid choking the wearer when placing the band around a neck.

Claims 21-22 (canceled).

23. (currently amended) A mask as in ~~anyone of claims 1 to 22~~ claim 1, that can be turned inside out forming a bag after removal from the head, so that the contaminated outside surface will now face inwards.

Claims 24-26 (canceled).

27. (new) An escape mask that enables one to breathe filtered air in the presence of contaminated air containing smoke, unidentified particles, chemical and/or biological agents or combinations of these, the mask comprising,

A. a hood foldable to pocket size that when unfolded can cover the entire head, comprising:

1. a bag made of transparent plastic film material impermeable to gases,

2. a connection means, constructed and arranged for connection to a filter cannister or to a source of fresh air,

3. an exhalation valve forming part of the mask, and

B. separate sealing means, not attached to the bag, to seal the hood around the neck, enabling adjusting the bag over the head to reduce the free space inside the hood.

28. (new) A method of enabling one to breathe filtered air in the presence of contaminated air containing smoke, unidentified particles, chemical or biological agents or combination of these, comprising:

a) providing a foldable hood escape mask with separate elastic sealing means as in claim 1,

b) unfolding the hood and placing it over the head and neck,

c) stretching the separate elastic sealing means over the hood and pulling it over the head around the neck, and

d) adjusting and sealing the hood around the neck by

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manipulating the hood and elastic means so that the exhalation valve is opposite the lips and mouth and the air space within the hood is reduced to a minimum.